

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment.

Care for the poor.

Forgive often.

Reject racism.

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity.

Love God.

Enjoy this life.



www.parkwayucc.org
Sunday, July 10, 2022

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Limitless Love | Courageous Action | Spirited Inquiry

Purpose Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ strives to be an inclusive community embracing: spiritual nourishment, open-minded inquiry, courageous action, and interfaith partnerships to fulfill God's calling to create a just world for all.

Congregational Statement

Parkway United Church of Christ, with God's grace, seeks to be a congregation that includes all persons, regardless of race, ethnic, or socio-economic background while respecting differences of gender, marital status, age, sexual orientation, and mental and physical ability. We aspire to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. We invite all to share in the life and leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities and blessings of participation in our open and affirming congregation.

PARKWAY UNITED CHURCH of CHRIST

2841 North Ballas Road | St. Louis, MO 63131 | 314-872-9330 [p] | 314-872-9014 [f]
parkwayucc.org | contact@parkwayucc.org

Linda Tossing, *President of the Church Council* [puccpresident@parkwayucc.org]

Kevin Cameron, *Pastor* [kevin@parkwayucc.org]

Barry Luedloff, *Music Director* [barry@parkwayucc.org]

Mona Smith Herberg, *Office Administrator* [mona@parkwayucc.org]

Kathy Ferrell, *Office Assistant* [kathy@parkwayucc.org]

John Dwyer, *Treasurer* [treasurer@parkwayucc.org]

Dawn Friedmann, *Bookkeeper* [dawn@parkwayucc.org]

Julie Connors, *Nursery* [juliest11992@yahoo.com]

Emma Pennyquick, *Nursery* [epennyquick1@live.maryville.edu]

Kim Livengood, *Church Historian* [historian@parkwayucc.org]

Joyce Ruiz, *Alzheimer's Assn Faith Outreach Ambassador* [JoyceRuiz7@gmail.com]

Polly Rutherford, *Environmental Justice/Sustainability Seekers* [pollyrutherford@gmail.com]

John Nourse, *Pastor Emeritus*

Welcome to Parkway

Thank you for joining us this morning. If you are with us virtually, please let us know you are here by commenting in the chat.

Welcome Children. We invite children to full participation in worship.

Today's scripture reader: Kari Borgmann

Today's flowers: Polly and Mike Rutherford celebrating their 49th Wedding Anniversary.

Bell Rung During Lord's Prayer. A tradition begun when farmers working in surrounding fields would stop work and join in prayer.

Subscribe to our email lists: Text your email address to 22828 or sign up at www.parkwayucc.org

Communications Requests: Please use the form at www.parkwayucc.org/communications for all announcements for all our media. Bulletin and eNews deadline is noon Monday.

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Mental Health Support

24/7 Crisis Hotline 800-273-8255 (TALK)

988 (new nationwide 3-digit number similar to 911)

800-SUICIDE: 800-784-2433

24/7 Missouri Department of Mental Health 800-811-4760

Text 741741 and someone will text right back... www.crisistextline.org

Behavioral Health Network of Greater St Louis 314-449-6713

Anniversaries

7/15 MASON, Mike & Lisa (17)

Birthdays

7/11 BORGMANN, Keith

7/15 MATTEUCCI, Nicky

7/14 TOOMBS, Alexandra

7/16 WINTER, Jane

7/14 TOOMBS, Graham

5th Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, July 10, 2022 | 10:00am | Sanctuary & Facebook Live

Meditation *Hope has two beautiful daughters; their names are Anger and Courage. Anger at the way things are, and Courage to see that they do not remain as they are.* ~Augustine of Hippo

Welcome Let us know you are here!

Passing the Peace of Christ

“May the peace of Christ be with you.”

(We are intentional about bringing more peace into the world.)

Prelude *Air* – by Charles F. Gounod, arr. by Ellen Jane Lorenz

Lighting of the Candles & Ringing of the Bell

Welcome Song *They'll Know We are Christians by Our Love*, v2-3



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from whom all things come,



we are one in the Spir - it, we are one in the Lord,
we will walk with each oth - er, we will walk hand in hand,
we will work with each oth - er, we will work side by side,
and all praise to Christ Je - sus, God's on - ly Son,

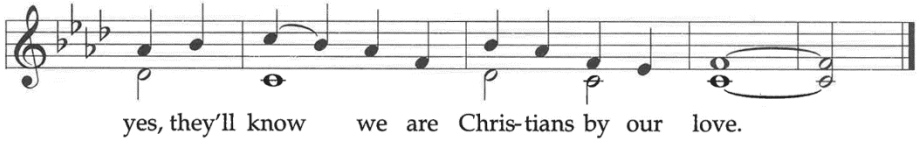


and we pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
and to - geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
and we'll guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:
and all praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:

Refrain



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our love.



Scripture Luke 10:25-37 (CEB - Common English Bible)

A legal expert stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to gain eternal life?”

Jesus replied, “What is written in the Law? How do you interpret it?”

He responded, “You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and love your neighbor as yourself.”

Jesus said to him, “You have answered correctly. Do this and you will live.”

But the legal expert wanted to prove that he was right, so he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus replied, “A man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. He encountered thieves, who stripped him naked, beat him up, and left him near death. Now it just so happened that a priest was also going down the same road. When he saw the injured man, he crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. Likewise, a Levite came by that spot, saw the injured man, and crossed over to the other side of the road and went on his way. A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day, he took two full days’ worth of wages and gave them to the innkeeper. He said, ‘Take care of him, and when I return, I will pay you back for any additional costs.’ What do you think? Which one of these three was a neighbor to the man who encountered thieves?”

Then the legal expert said, “The one who demonstrated mercy toward him.”

Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

***Call to Worship** Robyn Provis

One:	Good and merciful God, you call us to gather along the road we know as community.
Many:	With our neighbors all around, speak to us in these complicated times.
One:	We are people of the covenant, called to care for one another without exception.
Many:	Within and beyond our walls, our neighbors are struggling. Within and beyond these walls, we may be the one who is struggling.

One:	Just as Jesus lived a commitment of coming near, abide in, with and through us. Send us toward one another. Encourage us to come near with your Spirit.
Many:	We are ready to open our hearts to receive new strength and to open our lives to new understanding. Gather us near.
All:	Let us worship our God together—Creator, Christ and Spirit.

***Song** *Word of God in Human Language #2246*



1. Word of God in hu - man lan - guage for this time and in our tongue,
2. Ev - ery - where the world is hun - gry for the lib - er - a - ting Word,
3. So God's voice con - tin - ues speak - ing in the words we can't de - ny,



tell a - new the age - less sto - ry, ev - er an - cient, ev - er young.
 food for spir - it as for bod - y, to be tast - ed, felt, and heard.
 sound - ing out a - cross the ag - es. Will we an - swer or de - fy?



May our hearts re - ceive the mes - sage of God's faith - ful, lov - ing care;
 It is thus the Word en - coun - ters at God's own ap - point - ed hour,
 As the call be - comes still clear - er, wit - ness that the Word shall last,



may our lives re - spond in ac - tion, liv - ing deed and liv - ing prayer.
 bring - ing knowl - edge and per - cep - tion of true jus - tice, peace, and power.
 may we fol - low with com - mit - ment in the pres - ent as the past.

***Opening Prayer** Based on words by Fratelli Tutti

Holy One, You teach us in today's parable that there are two kinds of people - those who bend down to help and those who look the other way. Which kind of people will we be?

**We say, "Yes, Lord, I will love you and love my neighbor."
 But then we ask: The immigrant... is she my neighbor? Those in poverty...are they my neighbors? Victims of war across the world... are they my neighbors? One who faces racism... is he my neighbor? Those disabled or elderly... are they my neighbors? You remind us: *Yes. All of them are neighbors.***

Show us how to love, Lord. May we open our eyes. May we emerge from our comfortable isolation. May we build a world overflowing with compassion. Lord Jesus, who was neighbor to all, help us to persevere in love. Help us to restore dignity to the suffering. Help us to build a society based not on exclusion, but on community and belonging. Amen.

***Response** *Spirit of the Living God*

Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me;
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!
Spirit of the living God fall afresh on me.

Children's Time Children are invited to Room 12 (Lower Level) and Youth to Room 15 (Lower Level) following this Children's Time.

Blessing the Children *Jesus Loves Me*

Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong, They are weak but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me still today, Walking with me on my way,
Wanting as a friend to give, Life and love to all who live

Yes, Jesus loves me...

Scripture Psalm 82:1-8 (CEB - Common English Bible)

God takes a stand in the divine council. God gives judgment among the gods: "How long will you judge unjustly by granting favor to the wicked? Give justice to the lowly and the orphan; maintain the right of the poor and the destitute! Rescue the lowly and the needy. Deliver them from the power of the wicked! They don't know; they don't understand; they wander around in the dark. All the earth's foundations shake."

I hereby declare, "You are gods, children of the Most High—all of you! But you will die like mortals; you will fall down like any prince."

Rise up, God! Judge the earth because you hold all nations in your possession!

Moment of Silent Reflection

Sermon

A Time of Prayer *What a Friend We Have in Jesus #403, v1-2*



1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y - where?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged: Take it to the Lord in prayer!

O what peace we of - ten for - feit, O what need-less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, Who will all our sor-rows share?

All be-cause we do not car - ry Ev - ery-thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev-ery weak - ness; Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Pastoral Prayer & Prayers of the People

Lord's Prayer sung to the tune by Nate Stout

Our [Creator/Mother/Father/Holy One] **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

[A variety of names for God are welcome here – including in the Lord's Prayer.]

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offering Interlude *Voluntary on Austria* (for piano)

by Hugh S. Livingston, Jr., based on the tune by Franz Joseph Haydn

*Response

**Praise God the source of life and birth.
Praise God our truth who came to earth.
Our Home, our All, Earth's Majesty,
Love, Spirit, Light and Mystery. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

**Holy One, help us to be your feet walking beside those in need.
Help us to be your hands to clothe, feed and shelter them. You
came for the least, the lost and last of this world. Lord, bring us
closer to them that we might be generous and receptive to gifts
immeasurable. Amen.**

***Song of Parting** *Sent Out in Jesus' Name #2184*

Sent out in Je-sus' name, our hands are rea-dy now to
make the earth the place in which the king-dom comes.
The an-gels can-not change a world of hurt and pain in -
to a world of love, of jus-tice and of peace. The
task is ours to do, to set it real-ly free. O
help us to o-bey and car-ry out your will.

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of six staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first line of music is a half note followed by a quarter note, then a quarter note, and a quarter note. The second line of music is a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The third line of music is a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The fourth line of music is a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The fifth line of music is a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The sixth line of music is a quarter note, a quarter note, a quarter note, and a quarter note. The score ends with a double bar line.

***Benediction**

***God's Light Goes Forth**

***Music for Going Forth** *Let Us with a Gladsome Mind* by Robert J. Powell, based on tune Monkland (anon. 1824)

Announcements

TODAY! Speaker Series: My Journey to Sobriety by Chris P.

Sunday, July 10 | 11:15am in the Heritage Room and on Zoom

Our speaker will offer a unique, authentic, and faithful perspective on alcoholism through the prism of hope and grace, anger, love, and prayer.

We all know someone, who has a substance abuse disease, and their struggle for recovery. This program is a must towards better understanding the grip of addiction and the hope of treatment.

Next Week Speaker Series:

Sunday, July 17 | 11:15am in the Heritage Room and on Zoom

Presented by Simona Charles, MSW, BBM

Simona Charles is a member of the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation, where she grew up. The reservation was created by President Rutherford Hayes late in the 19th Century and occupies parts of the states of Idaho and Nevada.

Ms. Charles now lives and works in the St. Louis area after obtaining a Masters in Social Work from the prestigious Brown School of Social Work at Washington University. Her presentation will focus on her experiences growing up on the reservation and her views of modern day life as a Native American living and working in the St. Louis Area community and culture.

July 27 Speaker Series: Annie's Hope—The Center for Grieving Kids

Sunday, July 17 | 11:15am in the Heritage Room and on Zoom

We have invited Annie's Hope to be with us after worship and Sunday School to gather with anyone who would like to continue grieving the death and celebrating the life of Barb Kuhlmann ... and/or anyone who wants to know more about grief and how you can be a more non-anxious, supportive presence to others in your life who are grieving. All ages are welcome! Annie's Hope (formerly The St. Louis Bereavement Center for Young People) provides comprehensive support services to children, teens and their families who are grieving a death. Annie's Hope serves humanity in a non-judgmental atmosphere filled with compassion and gratitude.

Speaker Series on Zoom:

us02web.zoom.us/j/84691476997?pwd=aEM2ZURyWURLNmkwZ0EzV0VHVTl1eQTO9

Meeting ID: 8469147 6997 | **Passcode:** 181565 | **Dial** (312) 626-6799

Naomi Runtz in Photography Gallery

Long time Parkway UCC member, Naomi Runtz, will be included in *Return to the Opera*—an exhibition by The Sharp Shooters Photography Collective at the Union Avenue Christian Church, 733 Union Blvd, St. Louis. For those attending the operas, the gallery will be open during the performances. An Opening Reception for the artists will be on SUNDAY, JULY 10 FROM 12:30 TO 3:00 P.M. Parking is behind the church.

Annie Malone Program at Tappmeyer Homestead

Sunday, July 10 | Tappmeyer Homestead, 2 Barnes West Drive, Millennium Park (behind Barnes-Jewish West Hospital)

Annie Malone was a trail-blazing pioneer in business and philanthropy in the early 1900s when women of color were not acknowledged by the leaders of our community or country. Linda Nance, Founding President of the Annie Malone Historical Society, will talk about Annie's life and accomplishments at Tappmeyer Homestead, 2 Barnes West Drive, Millennium Park, on Sunday, July 10 at 2 p.m. Following a career in law enforcement, Linda served on the Webster Groves Board of Education and co-founded *A Call to Conscience*, an

interactive theatre group working for social change. Currently working on advanced degrees in museum studies and educational practice, Linda is also Missouri's historian for the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. An exhibit on Annie is open noon to 4 p.m. July 10 and 24 at Tappmeyer. Reservations are necessary for Linda's presentation. Email TappmeyerHomestead@gmail.com

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

School is out, many supplies are used up, and children will be taller by the end of summer. Let's help school children be ready for next fall. Parkway UCC is asked to provide 300 2-pocket folders for the Isaiah 58 Back-to-School event on July 30. Underwear and socks for any ages, small children through adult sizes would be most appreciated. We are also invited to host a game, activity booth, or resource table.

Isaiah 58 serves our neighbors in the Choteau, Jefferson, Cherokee, and S. Kingshighway boundaries. As you are able, please consider donating 2-pocket folders, socks, and underwear and place in the designated box in the church lobby by July 29. Contact Evelyn Buretta: burettaevelyn@gmail.com Parkway Inquirers

Inquirer: someone who wants to know more...about Parkway UCC

The next PARKWAY UCC Inquirers' Gathering will be on

Tuesday, July 19 from 6:30-7:45pm in the Heritage Room

Our goals that evening include:

- getting to know one another a bit more
- discussing some key issues of faith
- describing Parkway's worship, outreach, education, leadership, fellowship
- taking a look at our denomination, the United Church of Christ
- sharing ideas about the exciting future of Parkway UCC
- soliciting your thoughts on how we can be a more welcoming and inviting community of faith
- answering any of your questions

You will find our time together meaningful and informative!

Some churches call this sort of gathering a New Members Class—we do not. While we do know that there are a number of you who have expressed interest in becoming members of the church, we do not assume that Inquirers are seeking membership. We just want to be hospitable, get to know you and have the chance to express gratitude for your presence among us.

[Free Childcare provided if requested by Sunday morning, July 17]

Outdoor Movie, Smores and Optional Campout at PUCC!

Friday, July 22 | any time after 6:30pm | PUCC playground

Join us out back at church for Fun, Film and Optional Campout! We will have a fire and smores. We will show a family friendly film when it gets dark—yes, we will have the popcorn machine popping!

Bring lawn chairs and/or blankets. Some of us will pitch our tents and stay the night—continental breakfast provided.

The back playground is a perfect place to camp—close to home and great bathrooms. This is a great opportunity for inexperienced or rusty campers. If you would need to borrow a tent, please let us know. (If you have a tent to lend, please let us know!)

Rain date is the following Friday, July 29. Questions? kevin@parkwayucc.org

We love Special Olympics!

Saturday, August 6 | 12:00 - 3:00pm

Affton Athletic Association Fields, 10300 Gravois Road, Affton, Mo., 63123

We are looking for 5 PUCers to join Kevin for the 12-3pm afternoon volunteer shift at SOMO's East Regional Softball Tournament on Saturday, August 6, 2022. This event will be held at the Affton Athletic Association Fields, 10300 Gravois Road, Affton Mo. 63123. Upon arrival, please locate the volunteer check-in table where you be given a volunteer t-shirt and volunteer assignment. Thank you for helping make this day possible for our athletes and their families. Remember sunblock, a hat and a water bottle!

kevin@parkwayucc.org

TED is on summer break until August 9. Even though we are not meeting until then you are welcome to join us as we read for our summer book selection entitled Ordinary Grace by William Kent Krueger. It's a story about a boy, a small town and a murder in the summer of 1961. It has been described as an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God.

Please read the first 150 pages for our next TED gathering/potluck on Aug 9.

Coming up this Summer and Fall:

Outdoor Free Summer Concert Friday, August 12 | Des Peres Park

Festival of Nations Sat & Sun August 27-28 | festivalofnationsstl.org/

Habitat Work Day Saturday, September 10 | mckenzie1947@att.net

Crop Walk Sun, Oct 2 | events.crophungerwalk.org/2022/event/saintlouismo

Alzheimer's News July 2022

With summer hitting its peak, make sure you keep your loved ones with dementia safe from extreme heat! Some tips include:

- Plan ahead- Family and friends should prepare accordingly and make plans to regularly check-in on a person living with dementia during extreme heat. Arrange alternative plans for cooler spaces, if air conditioning is unavailable, and dress in loose, light clothing.
- Stay hydrated- Increased water intake is essential to maintaining good hydration and health during extreme heat. Know the signs of heat exhaustion to avoid heat stroke. Dehydration may be difficult to notice in a person living with dementia, as signs like increased fatigue, dry mouth and headache may be difficult to detect.
- Pay attention at night- Keep people living with dementia cool by using fans and keeping the air conditioning on. At night, low temperatures can still exceed 75 degrees with little fluctuation in humidity levels making for difficult and exacerbating sleeping conditions, heightened anxiety and increased agitation.

- Reduce the risk of wandering- Wandering during extreme heat can increase the risk of dehydration, heat exhaustion, or heat stroke. Provide opportunities for the person to engage in structured, meaningful activities throughout the day. Reassure the person if he or she feels lost, abandoned or disoriented. And make a plan in the event wandering does occur.

You can learn more by going to www.alz.org/help-support/resources or the Alzheimer's Helpline which is accessible 24/7 via 800-272-3900 and staffed by master's level clinicians to assist with crisis situations, decision making, and disease information. You can find virtual dementia caregiver resources online at alz.org/covid19help. Tools and support are also available in Spanish. Want to learn more about the Alzheimer's Association and what they do here in St. Louis? Visit alz.org and/or contact PUC's Faith Outreach Ambassador with the Alzheimer's Association, Joyce Ruiz at joyceruiz7@gmail.com

The Summer Day

Mary Oliver

Who made the world?
 Who made the swan,
 and the black bear?
 Who made the grasshopper?
 This grasshopper, I mean -
 the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
 the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
 who is moving her jaws back and forth
 instead of up and down -
 who is gazing around
 with her enormous and complicated eyes.
 Now she lifts her pale forearms
 and thoroughly washes her face.
 Now she snaps her wings open,
 and floats away.
 I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
 I do know how to pay attention,
 how to fall down into the grass,
 how to kneel down in the grass,
 how to be idle and blessed,
 how to stroll through the fields,
 which is what I have been doing all day.
 Tell me, what else should I have done?
 Doesn't everything die at last,
 and too soon?
 Tell me, what is it you plan to do
 with your one wild and precious life?

Prayer List

as of Wednesday, July 6, 2022

Celebrations

All the acts of kindness, justice and equity near and far.

Brayden Michael Comens - born to Megan and David!

Alison Yakel - passed the NCLEX and has accepted a job at Seattle Children's Hospital as part of their RN Residency Program and will be working in the cancer care unit. She moves mid-July.

Joan Degroote - just retired after a long career at Mercy's NICU.

Concerns

Family and friends of Millicent Guerri - celebrating her life at Schrader Funeral Home this Friday, July 8 ... Visitation 9:30am. Funeral at 11am.

Linda Tossing - thyroid gland surgery on Wednesday, July 6.

Jim Winkelmann - at DePaul Rehab Hospital after a recent stroke.

Grieving and giving thanks for Barb Kuhlmann -

<https://conta.cc/3QqJkQJ>; Memorial Service here 3pm on Sat, July 30.

Obituary - <https://www.boppchapel.com/obituaries/Barbara--Kuhlmann-?obId=25220626#/obituaryInfo>

Bill and Pat Owens - as Bill seeks healing after recent back surgery.

Bart Coleman - prep has begun for a heart procedure later this month.

Joan Biest - chemotherapy treatments were successful; radiation next.

Josh - starting chemo; will need a bone marrow transplant (Tarr).

All impacted by Covid-19 - individuals, families, healthcare workers; If anyone needs help getting vax/booster or if anyone vaccinated would like to be on the Care Team, please reach out to kevin@parkwayucc.org

Family of Jayland Walker, police and public in Akron, Ohio.

Aftermath of gun violence and deaths in the US on July 4th.

The war in Ukraine.

Women's Justice issues.

Continuing

Jackie - special needs adult battling Parkinson's, cancer, and dementia.

Dusty & Lindsay; Matt & Kim - expecting babies with complications.

Sharon - struggling with many health issues (Gerry Rogers' cousin).

The Haack's neighbor - stage 4 cancer... single parent of a 2.5 yr old.

Janet Schoedinger - chemotherapy for 3rd cancer battle (Litzinger).

Lynda Ruby - living with cancer (Lindner).

Val - strength and patience (Jim Winkelmann's 101 year-old mother).

Christopher, Gail & Bill Haack - chronic health challenges.

Cherie & Mike Stolze - her health; her father's kidney disease.

Ruth Peace & Pinky Wilcoxon - PUCC sisters with health challenges.

Bill Darland - ongoing health issues.

Lizzie - awaiting liver transplant (niece of Barb Kuhlmann).

Anthony - multiple challenges as he lives his post-incarceration life.

Gary - risky behaviors; seeking balance and stability.

Intertwine Interfaith Welcome Circle - Afghan family in St Louis.

St Louis Association UCC Covenant Partner

Week ending July 3 - **Parkway UCC**, St Louis; parkwayucc.org

Week ending July 10 - **Pilgrim Congregational UCC**, St. Louis;

pilgrimucc-stl.org

Home/Care Facility/Rehab Center

Marv Herpel - *Brookdale West County*; 785 Henry Ave, #217;

Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-227-5838 [birthdate: March 3]

Sue Houser - *Bethany Ctr for Rehab & Healing*; 421 Ocala Dr - #209B;

Nashville, TN 37211; 615-577-2049. [birthdate: July 8]

Pat Klein - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr,
#325; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: September 21]

Bill Klein - *Anthology Senior Living of Wildwood*; 251 Plaza Dr,
#104; Wildwood, MO 63040 [birthdate: March 8]

John Nourse *The Village at Cape Albeon*; 3300 Lake Bend Dr, #103; Valley
Park, MO 63088 [birthdate: October 26]

Ruth Peace - 10379-D Forest Brooke Ln; StL MO 63146; 314-983-0253;
meadletter222@gmail.com [birthdate: August 8]

Glady Sims - *Friendship Village - 15200 Village View Dr, #2418*;
Chesterfield, MO 63017; 636-898-8873 [birthdate: July 4]

Pinky Wilcoxon - 10379-D Forest Brooke Ln; StL MO 63146; 314-983-
0253; meadletter222@gmail.com [birthdate: April 7]

Dick Witte - *Meramec Bluffs Assisted Living*; 40 Meramec Trails Dr; Apt
#104; Ballwin, MO 63021; 636-368-7324 [birthdate: March 25]

Other

Lucia McKenzie and John Bieg - engaged to be married.

The Shelton Family - as Killian prepares to welcome a baby sister.

Brussee/Dario/Race Family as Skyler and Justin prep to be parents.

Pres Biden, VP Harris, Congress, all local, national, world leaders.

The “me too” Movement - shining a light on sexual abuse.

All people who live with mental illness.

Caregivers of all shapes and sizes.

PUCF Family struggling with employment; healthcare costs and limits.

Our Missouri Mid-South Conference and St Louis Assn UCC

Gun violence and other violence across the US and other lands.

Conversations about the Death Penalty in the United States.

Victims of Natural and Created Disasters around the world.

Healing of relationships between the public and the police.

Peace and Justice near and far... **US Military** around the globe.

5th Sunday after Pentecost

July 10, 2022

Luke 10:25-37

Caring Neighbors

Today's scripture is the story of the Good Samaritan. Listen to the story in the words of those who experienced it:

The Religious Official speaks

I always believed there are two kinds of people in the world - good ones and, well, not-good ones. I, of course, have been blessed by birth and by training to be one of the good ones. I help when I can, but I tell myself that you can't help them all. And so that day, I rushed right by that person lying beaten on the side of the road, as I had rushed so many times before. In my rush to get where I was going and do the "good" thing I had planned, I think I missed a chance. I can't stop thinking of him and wondering if there was something more I could have done, wondering if "you can't help them all" is just a justification to not help anyone. Since that day, I've been thinking that maybe the world is not so easy to divide into good people and bad ones.

The Man Beaten by Robbers speaks

I always knew that there are two kinds of people in this world - those who suffer and those who make others suffer. Until that day, I made sure that I was the one who made others suffer, so they couldn't hurt me. Everyone feared my fists, and that's why they hired me to walk that dangerous road. But that day, I let down my guard for a moment, and others found me, and beat me. I thought I would die there, but instead I felt a cool cloth on my head, a gentle hand to bandage my wounds. Since that day, I've wondered if maybe the world is not so easy to divide into assailants and victims. The person who picked me up and helped me that day had no reason to help, he just did. Maybe the world isn't all about avoiding suffering or inflicting it. Maybe there is another way to live - healing and helping - that I hadn't noticed before.

The Samaritan speaks

Look, there are two kinds of people in this world. The right ones, like me, who know that God dwells on the holy mountain and the wrong ones, like him, who think God lives in a box in the city. When I saw him lying by the side of the road that day, I knew that he was one of the wrong ones. But in that moment, I also saw his pain was just like mine would have been. I saw that his blood was red just as mine is. And for some reason, I couldn't walk away. Since that day, I've wondered if maybe God could be both in my mountain and in their city. Maybe the world is not so easily divided into us and them.